

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3695

To promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 29, 2018

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Global Electoral Ex-
5 change Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) recent elections globally have illustrated the
9 urgent need for the promotion and exchange of
10 international best election practices, particularly in

1 the areas of cybersecurity, results transmission,
2 transparency of electoral data, election dispute reso-
3 lution, and the elimination of discriminatory reg-
4 istration practices and other electoral irregularities;

5 (2) the advancement of democracy worldwide
6 promotes American interests, as stable democracies
7 provide new market opportunities, improve global
8 health outcomes, and promote economic freedom and
9 regional security;

10 (3) credible elections are the cornerstone of a
11 healthy democracy and enable all persons to exercise
12 their basic human right to have a say in how they
13 are governed;

14 (4) inclusive elections strengthen the credibility
15 and stability of democracies more broadly, as demo-
16 cratic institutions flourish when representative of all
17 groups of society;

18 (5) at the heart of a strong election cycle is the
19 professionalism of the election management body
20 and an empowered civil society; and

21 (6) the development of local expertise via peer-
22 to-peer learning and exchanges promotes the inde-
23 pendence of such bodies from internal and external
24 influence.

1 **SEC. 3. GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.**

2 (a) GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.—The Sec-
3 retary of State shall establish and administer a Global
4 Electoral Exchange Program to promote the utilization of
5 sound election administration practices in the United
6 States and foreign countries.

7 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Global Elec-
8 toral Exchange Program described in subsection (a) shall
9 include the promotion and exchange of international best
10 election practices, including in the areas of cybersecurity,
11 results transmission, transparency of electoral data, elec-
12 tion dispute resolution, the elimination of discriminatory
13 registration practices and electoral irregularities, and
14 other sound election administration practices.

15 (c) EXCHANGE OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may,
17 in consultation, as appropriate, with the United
18 States Agency for International Development and re-
19 gionally focused independent agencies, make grants
20 to any United States-based organization described in
21 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
22 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of
23 such Code with experience in comparative election
24 systems or subject matter expertise in the areas of
25 election administration or electoral integrity that

1 submits an application in such form, and satisfying
2 such requirements, as the Secretary may require.

3 (2) TYPES OF GRANTS.—An organization de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1) may receive a grant for one
5 or more of the following purposes:

6 (A) To design and implement programs
7 bringing election administrators and officials,
8 including government officials, polling workers,
9 civil society representatives, members of the ju-
10 diciary, and others who participate in the orga-
11 nization and administration of an election in a
12 foreign country to the United States to study
13 election procedures in the United States for
14 educational purposes.

15 (B) To design and implement programs
16 taking United States or another country's elec-
17 tion administrators and officials, including gov-
18 ernment officials, polling workers, civil society
19 representatives, members of the judiciary, and
20 others who participate in the organization and
21 administration of elections for public office in
22 the United States or such other countries to
23 foreign countries to study election procedures in
24 such countries for educational purposes.

1 (3) LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES.—Activities adminis-
2 tered under the Global Electoral Exchange Program
3 may not—

4 (A) include election observation for the
5 purposes of discussing the validity or legitimacy
6 of an election; or

7 (B) facilitate any advocacy for a certain
8 electoral result by a grantee when participating
9 in the Program.

10 (4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
11 Congress that the Secretary of State should estab-
12 lish and maintain a network of Global Electoral Ex-
13 change Program alumni, to promote communication
14 and further exchange of information regarding
15 sound election administration practices among cur-
16 rent and former program participants.

17 (5) FURTHER LIMITS.—A recipient of a grant
18 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program may
19 use such grant for only the purpose for which such
20 grant was awarded, unless otherwise authorized by
21 the Secretary of State.

22 (6) NOT DUPLICATIVE.—Grants made under
23 this subsection may not be duplicative of any other
24 grants made under any other provision of law for
25 similar or related purposes.

1 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.**

2 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act and in each of the following two years
4 thereafter, the Secretary of State shall provide to the
5 Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on
6 Rules of the House of Representatives and the Committee
7 on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Rules and Ad-
8 ministration of the Senate a briefing on the status of any
9 activities carried out pursuant to this Act during the pre-
10 ceding year, which shall include, among other information,
11 the following elements:

12 (1) A summary of all exchanges conducted
13 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program, in-
14 cluding information regarding grantees, participants,
15 and the locations where program activities were held.

16 (2) A description of the criteria used to select
17 grantees under the Global Electoral Exchange Pro-
18 gram.

19 (3) Any recommendations for the improvement
20 of the Global Electoral Exchange Program, based on
21 the purposes specified in section 3(b).

○